This is

PHI ALPHA THETA

History Honor Society, Inc.

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THIS IS PHI ALPHA THETA

The National Honor Society in History, Phi Alpha Theta, was established at the University of Arkansas on March 17, 1921 by N. Andrew N. Cleven.

Nels Andrew Nelson Cleven was born on December 21, 1874 in Lake Mills, Iowa. He began his teaching career in public schools in 1894 before receiving two bachelor's degrees (Ph.B and Ed.B) from the University of Chicago in 1906. Nels Andrew Nelson Cleven (Andrew to his friends) earned his Ph.D from the University of Munich in 1913, and taught at San Diego High School and Junior College until 1918. From 1918-19 he worked as a research assistant for the War Trade Board's Bureau of Research and Statistics in Washington, D.C.

In September 1919 Nels moved to Fayetteville after accepting an assistant professorship from Dr. David Yancey Thomas, Head of the Department of History and Political Science at the University of Arkansas. Andrew and his wife, Hilma, soon found Fayetteville and this unique region of the Ozarks to their liking. The Clevens would frequently chaperon the social activities of campus fraternities and sororities, organizations for which Nels previously had little regard. These gatherings would inspire what he termed "the Phi Alpha Theta idea."

The possibility of "diffusing information through socialized avenues," he wrote later, "was due to the kindly cooperation of my students in Arkansas." He came to regard fraternities as "an essential spirit of the age...searchers all for Truth in History." Such societies were crucial because "the human side of scholarship needs to be nurtured and thought made articulate". Despite the national proliferation of social and professional fraternities during this period, he discovered there were no societies in History, a deficiency he was determined to remedy. In his mind he envisioned a secret fraternity, open to women as well as men, which would embrace the "entire History of Mankind". By chance, on the wall of his classroom hung a painting depicting ancient Assyria and featuring a six-pointed Star of Divinity. The star would become the central symbol for the history fraternity. On March 14, 1921 Dr. Cleven presided over a meeting in his classroom with a group of History students. Those present voted to

create the University Historical Society. Officers were elected and Constitutional, Program and Membership committees were appointed. Even though Dr. Cleven regarded this meeting as the anniversary date for the founding of Phi Alpha Theta, it was not until a month later that the name Phi Alpha Theta was formally adopted.

Since its inauguration, Phi Alpha Theta has grown to more than seven hundred chapters in fifty states. It has the distinction of having more chapters than any other accredited honor society, holding one of the earliest memberships in the Association of College Honor Societies. The total number of initiates since its inception is more than 240,000.

The Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, Inc. is comprised of chapters from properly accredited colleges and universities. All students in these institutions who have completed the required number of history courses and are maintaining high standards in all their college or university studies are eligible for membership.

We are a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students, teachers and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist historical research and publication by our members in a variety of ways. In 1996 Phi Alpha Theta received recognition as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions to our Society are now tax deductible as allowed by law.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Phi Alpha Theta is noted for the many services it provides its members.

At its **biennial convention**, students, both undergraduate and graduate, are provided the opportunity to meet distinguished historians and to present their own research papers. Phi Alpha Theta is one of the few honor and professional historical societies that encourages student participation at all its functions. Outstanding historians also appear on the program of every **biennial convention** so that members of the Society have the opportunity to learn of their contributions to historical scholarship. Both students and professors gain the opportunity to meet others interested in history, especially in their own fields of specialization, while enjoying the social and

intellectual dialogue that occurs. The **biennial convention** is highlighted by special events and tours of sites of historical interest. Phi Alpha Theta underwrites a portion of the cost of transportation for one delegate from each chapter attending the convention.

Phi Alpha Theta presents special programs at the annual meetings of the American Historical Association, the Organization of American Historians, the Southern Historical Association, the Western History Association, the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, Missouri Valley Historical Conference, the Southwestern Social Sciences Association, and many state historical associations. At most of these professional conferences, Phi Alpha Theta sponsors paper sessions enabling students to present their research and receive critical evaluation from faculty from a wide variety of institutions of higher learning.

PUBLICATIONS

The Historian

The Society publishes ***The Historian,*** a distinguished historical quarterly whose pages are open to its members for publication in all fields of history. It also contains numerous reviews of scholarly books, news of historical activities, and other items of interest. ***The Historian*** now has the largest circulation among all scholarly historical journals published in the United States. Each initiate receives a one-year subscription as part of the initiation fee.

The News Letter

The News Letter is published three times a year and includes articles covering all the current activities and awards of the Society. It emphasizes new chapter installations, chapter activities, regional meetings, initiations, and other information of interest. We encourage all chapters to forward pictures and news items of interest for publication.

HANDBOOKS

We publish an Officer's Handbook, a Faculty Advisor's Manual, a Guide for Hosting Regional Meetings, and Criteria for Best Chapter Awards as well as *This is Phi Alpha Theta,* booklet which also contains a new topic, *History, It's Our Future.*

LOCAL AND REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

On the local level, each chapter of the Society may host many activities for the benefit and enjoyment of its members. Local chapters sponsor guest speakers, forums, debates and scholarly seminars, local campus publications, and other programs in cooperation with local and area historical societies. Through the local chapter's promotion of social activities for all students of history, students and faculty gain the opportunity to gather informally in a setting outside the classroom.

Another important aspect of the Society's mission is the coordination of groups of chapters located in relatively close proximity. Approximately 40 one to two-day **regional meetings** are held each year with more than 700 student papers being presented. These **regional meetings** are a cornerstone of our activities.
****Chapters may participate in more than one regional meeting.**

PRIZES AND AWARDS

To promote the student's interest and love of history, Phi Alpha Theta has established a number of prizes and awards for its members. At the ***74th Anniversary*** Convention our financial commitment doubled for such activities.

THE NELS ANDREW N. CLEVEN FOUNDER'S PAPER PRIZE AWARDS

Six annual Paper Prize Awards are presented for papers by members of the Society. The GEORGE P. HAMMOND Graduate Paper Award of $250 is presented for the best paper by a graduate student member. The LYNN W. TURNER Undergraduate Paper Award of $200 is presented for the best paper by an undergraduate student member. An additional four FOUNDER'S AWARDS of $150 each are granted for papers submitted by either undergraduate or graduate student members of the Society. A national committee determines the winners.

Papers submitted in this competition may encompass a wide variety of historical subjects. Each paper must be recommended by the chapter Faculty Advisor or Chair of the History Department for its high scholarly quality.

All six award winning papers are reviewed by the Editor of *The Historian* and, if found suitable, will be published in *The Historian.* Interested members should consult the announcements of these awards for instructions as to format and deadlines located at every chapter and available from National Headquarters.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Phi Alpha Theta offers its members nine scholarships.

The A. F. ZIMMERMAN SCHOLARSHIP of $1,250 is presented to a student member entering graduate school for the first time for work leading to the M.A. degree in history.

The THOMAS S. MORGAN MEMORIAL AWARD of $750 is presented to a student member entering graduate school for the first time for work leading to the M.A. degree in history.

The WILLIAM E. PARRISH AWARD of $750 is presented to a student member entering graduate school for the first time for work leading to the M.A. degree in history.

The JOHN PINE MEMORIAL AWARD in the amount of $1,000 is awarded to a graduate student member for advanced graduate study.

FOUR ADDITIONAL AWARDS of $750 each are presented to student members entering graduate school for the first time or in the advanced stages of study in history.

The PHI ALPHA THETA SCHOLARSHIP. An additional $1,000 can be awarded to an Advanced Graduate Student member of the Society for final work leading to a Ph.D. in history.

The PHI ALPHA THETA FACULTY ADVISOR AWARD. A faculty member who has served as Faculty Advisor for five or more years may receive a $1,000 award for any special activity such as research, writing assistance, or travel for the advancement of his/her career.

Members interested in applying for any of these awards should contact their chapter advisor or Phi Alpha Theta, 50 College Dr., Allentown, PA 18104-6100.

BEST CHAPTER AWARDS

To encourage greater chapter activity and interest in the field of history, Phi Alpha Theta now presents annual **"Best Chapter Awards"** of $250 each. The awards are presented for exceptional activities and projects hosted by a local chapter. All chapters are divided into six divisions according to student enrollment with approximately the same number of chapters included in each division. The Criteria for Best Chapter Awards are available from National Headquarters.

BOOK AWARDS

To encourage worthwhile publication in history, Phi Alpha Theta offers two annual awards for books published by its members.

One award of $500 is granted for the best first book in history published by a member. A second award, also $500, is presented for the best subsequent book published by a member. If the winner of one of these awards is a member of an active chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Department on that campus receives an additional award of $100 for the purchase of books for the library or department.

Members interested in submitting books for consideration for these awards should request instructions from the Executive Director at National Headquarters. A national committee makes the final selections.

MANUSCRIPT PUBLICATION AWARD

This is awarded for an outstanding manuscript in the field of history. This award is intended to assist in publication costs of such a manuscript and aims primarily to assist the younger historian in his/her early publication efforts. This award is in addition to the Book Awards.

THE GERALD D. NASH STUDENT HISTORY JOURNAL PRIZE AWARD

A prize of $500 will be awarded to the winner in each of two competition categories: chapters at schools with fewer than 150 History majors and chapters at schools with 150 or more majors in History. For 1997 a newly created runner-up prize of $100 will be awarded in each of the two competition categories.

PHI ALPHA THETA WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

The Phi Alpha Theta Award of $500 to a graduate student member for the best Doctoral Dissertation in Western History is funded by Westerners International Association. The award is presented each year at the Phi Alpha Theta luncheon at the Western History Association annual meeting.

AWARD AT NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

National History Day is a program that encourages pre-college students to research and prepare papers, projects, performances and media presentations on a historical theme and to have them judged by history professionals. The Phi Alpha Theta Award of $2,000 is presented annually to a student once they are enrolled full-time at a college or university.

CIVIL SERVICE BENEFITS - OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Outstanding Scholar Program is a special hiring authority established for entry-level administrative positions at the GS-5 and GS-7 grade levels. If you meet the requirements below, you may be offered a direct appointment by a Federal Agency without having to go through the normal competitive hiring procedures. The direct appointment process cuts through all of the "red tape" and can save you weeks of time. To qualify for consideration, you must be a college graduate and have maintained a grade-point average (GPA) of 3.45 or better on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate course work, or have graduated in the upper 10 percent of your class or major university subdivision.

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETIES

As part of its commitment to academic excellence, Phi Alpha Theta continues to participate actively, through its Executive Director and President, in the Association of College Honor Societies. Phi Alpha

Theta enjoys the distinction of being one of three original departmental honor societies with membership in the ACHS.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Undergraduate

An undergraduate student must have completed at least twelve semester hours in history with a grade in all history courses averaging above the second highest grade on the working scale, (ie: 3 in a 4 point system) must have a general average of at least the second highest grade in the working scale in at least two-thirds of the remainder of his/her work, and must rank in the highest 35 percent of the class.

Graduate

A graduate student must have completed at least one-third of the residence requirements for the Masters Degree before becoming eligible for selection to membership. Averages in all courses completed for graduate credit must be at least midway between the highest and second highest grade on the working scale, and no grade in the graduate record may be failure or its equivalent. In institutions which do not have the traditional A-B-C-D grade system, the decision of the Chair of the Department of History or the history faculty shall determine eligibility on the basis of equivalency with the above standards.

Faculty

Faculty members with the rank of instructor or above who are teaching in the field of history are eligible for membership without being required to satisfy provisions of the foregoing paragraphs of this section.

CONTINUED SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIPS

Initiation into a chapter of Phi Alpha Theta confers lifetime membership upon the individual. Payment of the initiation fee is the only financial expense for membership.

However, there are several means of continuing to actively support the projects of Phi Alpha Theta. **SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP**, an annual contribution of $40, entitles the individual to receive *The Historian* and *The News Letter* for one year with the balance exceeding subscription costs being added to the endowment scholarship fund. **SUPPORTING MEMBERSHIP**, a one-year subscription rate to *The Historian* is only $25. There is also a $10 option which entitles a member to receive the three issues of *The News Letter.*

The National Headquarters of Phi Alpha Theta is located at: 50 College Drive, Allentown, PA 18104-6100.

Telephone: (610) 433-4140
Fax: (610) 433-4661
Toll-free: 1-800-394-8195
E-Mail: phialpha@ptd.net
Website: **"currently under construction"**

HISTORY, IT'S OUR FUTURE

"Career possibilities for history majors"

"History illuminates the human condition." (1) As a field of study, history provides the context with which we define our relationship with our local community, nation, and the world. Without the careful study and analysis of history, the past "remains an impenetrable wilderness." (2) History offers an ordered account of past experiences and their significance to our present lives. It transforms obscure, contradictory and confusing events into meaningful occurrences. Analyses of how positive changes have been achieved and how evil has been confronted give us the hope to strive for a better future.

The past affects and shapes everyone's lives. Its study connects diverse peoples together and provides a measure by which our actions, ideas, goals, and conduct can be evaluated. Knowledge of the past and an understanding of current events enables us to see cause and effect, to perceive what we must maintain or change, and to better analyze political, social, cultural, and economic events to their greatest advantage.

The awareness and incorporation of history into our daily lives fosters personal growth, professional competence, and civic responsibility. Students who undertake study in history develop a frame of reference with which to master other disciplines and build a strong foundation for a career in any field.

Consider supplementing core history requirements with electives that will sharpen logical, critical, and analytic thinking. A general understanding of the mathematical sciences, economics, legal studies, and political science, coupled with the ability to express oneself in both written and spoken English is critical. One should select subjects which focus on human thought and behavior, such as psychology, anthropology, sociology, and comparative literature. In addition, master the ethical dimensions of life in general through courses in religion, ethics, logic, and philosophy. Below are some **career possibilities for history majors** in five areas: the private, public, and non-profit sectors, education and small firm or individual enterprises.

Endnotes

1. Poster, "Business and History", prepared by the National Center for the Study of History, Inc., R.R. #1, Box 679, Cornish, Maine, 04020-9726. 1988 Robert W. Pomeroy. Printed in the U.S. by the Pioneer Press of West Virginia, Inc.

2. Poster, "Value History", prepared under the auspices of the National Center for the Study of History, R.R. 1, Box 679, Cornish, Maine, 04020-9726. Designed by Melilli.Mehl Graphic Designers in Portland, Maine, and printed in the U.S. by the Pioneer Press of West Virginia, Inc. in 1991.

PRIVATE SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

The private sector offers many opportunities for students with a history or liberal arts background. Listed are numerous, but by no means exhaustive, examples of the types of businesses and industries which rely on employees who can research, document, analyze, synthesize, and communicate effectively.

Marketing and Advertising

Researching market performance, determining trends for future decisions, analyzing historical marketing techniques and systems and advertising strategies.

Publishing

Copyediting, manuscript evaluation, researching market demands for historical publications and their uses (educational, personal, etc.)

Public Relations

Research and analysis of public trends, presentation of clients' activities based on historical interpretation, manage company archives, write historical material for organizational promotional purposes.

Manufacturing

Analysis of markets, financial, economic, political risk over- time, staff training in corporate history and foreign cultures through diversity and multiculturalism workshops, collect and document oral histories for organizational diagnosis, manage company archives and curate exhibits of archival materials and memorabilia.

Mineral Extraction Industries

Analyze political risk and key political figures with reference to economic implications for business; research claims and geographical and land use history, write for corporate communications and public relations, manage company archives and information retrieval services.

Other Industries

Research, analysis studies, writing public relations and educational materials, archival and records management, etc.

Utilities

Review local issues and concerns, policy and management studies, information services, historical analysis, manage archives.

Law

Research public and private archives and records collections, collect oral history for depositions, develop support material from historical evidence.

Banking

Produce historical financial, economic, and political risk analyses, manage archives, research policy issues, write and teach staff corporate history, curate and exhibit historical displays.

Insurance

Research and evaluate case histories, prepare studies of policy matters, perform legislative analysis, manage company archives.

Investment Services

Archival and records management, and research and analysis for companies which specialize in the purchasing, issuing, and selling of corporate equity, such as brokerage firms and investment banking houses.

Communications

Research and write historical documentaries and narratives; analyze public trends over time, provide information and archival services to motion picture firms, network and cable television companies, and record and tape industries.

Journalism

Searching and researching historical records, interviewing with oral history techniques, writing and editing for newspapers, news, trade, and professional (scholarly) journals, historical and popular periodicals and magazines, textbooks, and books.

PUBLIC SECTOR OPPORTUNITIES

The government is one of the largest employers of students with training and degrees in history and related fields.

Executive Branch

Cabinet-level departments: The Department of State, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, etc. Independent organizations within the federal government: National Endowment for the Humanities, Smithsonian Institution, etc. perform such duties as current issues studies, analysis of policy performance, long-range trends, etc., preservation and organization of institutional records, editing of public records and documents.

Legislative Branch

Opportunities can be found within the historical offices of state legislatures, the Senate and the United States House of Representatives performing such duties as staff and committee investigations, publication of bibliographic material, service on study commissions, and research assistance where needed.

Judicial Branch

The United States Supreme Court Curator's Office and various historical offices, projects, and regulatory agencies. Records collection and preservation, policy analysis, research where needed, writing of reports and various office correspondence, etc.

Military Services

Manage the museums and archival and records centers for the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and National Guard. Lecture on specific issues, prepare institutional histories, etc.

The Foreign Service

A test is required for entrance and placement analysis. Duties include such activities as research and writing on the diplomatic, economic, political, social, and cultural history of various areas.

Civil Service

A test is required for entrance and placement analysis. Duties depend on the type of location placement is granted.

National Archives and Records Service

Archival, manuscript, and records management; microfilming of collection items.

Other Opportunities

Employment in libraries, historic sites, museums, community history education centers, etc.. Work in policy history, oral history, public administration, cultural resource management, genealogy and

family history, public works, land-use management, urban history and development, demographic history, environmental history, archeological projects, etc..

Non-Profit Sector Opportunities

In addition to appointments within the United States government, the non-profit sector (organizations with 501(c)3 status) offers a wide array of professional positions in research, administration, education, and exhibition design. History majors in particular are well-suited for appointments within the following institutions: historical commissions, associations, and societies, scholarly and professional associations, galleries and museums, colleges and universities, research foundations and institutional "think tanks" and with service institutions (agencies, foundations, and other philanthropic organizations which provide educational, social, and cultural services to the public).

Opportunities Within the Field of Education

If teaching history is what you would like to do, appointments can be found in public and private elementary and secondary schools, community colleges, small and large undergraduate and graduate colleges and universities. Other possibilities include district and state offices for curriculum and text preparation, state and federal departments of education, adult education centers, and in corporate training programs.

Individual and Small Firm Opportunities

If you have the entrepreneurial spirit and wish to get involved with a small firm or start one of your own, several fields where a history major will surely come in handy are:

Consulting: Cultural Resource Management

Make contracts with developers, public agencies, business firms, and counseling services on preservation and cultural resource management policy, research and prepare cultural resource statements for environmental impact reports, identify and evaluate historic structures and other cultural resources, select structures for legal protection; prepare and teach preservation education programs.

Consulting: Cultural Resource Research/Writing

Prepare histories, etc., search and research public and private records, perform legal and policy research services, oral history interviewing and transcribing, work in historical editing and indexing.

Genealogical Services

Search, research, and prepare reports on family and community histories.

Preservation/Restoration Services

Firms offering historic preservation/restoration services, rehabilitation of historically accurate buildings and artifacts, information services on the field, research on preservation law and tax benefits.

Writing

Author your own historical books, pamphlets, articles and research papers or freelance for various publication agencies.

Sources of Information

1. American Association for State and Local History: 172 Second Avenue North, Suite 202, Nashville, Tennessee 37201.
2. National Trust for Historic Preservation: 740-748 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.
3. National Endowment for the Humanities: 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20506.
4. National History Education Network: Department of History, The University of Tulsa, 600 South College Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74104-3189.
5. American Historical Association: 400 A Street, SE, Washington, D.C. 20003.

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